

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (Previously Canceled)

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) An improved universal fork, comprising:

a generally symmetrical fork head and a generally symmetrical handle grip

the handle grip including an upper surface and a lower surface, a central handle shaft connected to the fork head and a terminating end opposite the fork head, the handle grip having a generally curved outer shape which is generally flattened on the upper and lower surfaces and which increases in circumference along the its length from the central handle shaft to the terminating end, the height of the central handle shaft increased at the point where the fork head is joined to the shaft thereby causing the top side of the shaft to be raised upwards and the bottom side of the shaft to protrude downwards and such that the width of the shaft is not significantly wider thereby presenting opposing flat areas which present finger platforms, each finger platform including opposite flattened surfaces bounded by the top side and the bottom side of the shaft adjacent to the fork head and located along the length of the central handle shaft where the central handle shaft is joined to the fork head,

the fork head having two outer tines and at least one inner tine, the fork head presenting a widened portion defined by opposite extended curved outer edges of the outer tines, the curved outer edges of the two outer tines following an ~~areual~~ accurate path

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arcing at least thirty degrees, the outer edges of the outer tines having edges sufficiently arcuate for cutting cooked food, the tines of the fork head also exhibiting upward curvature when viewed from the side,

whereby a user may hold the handle grip and place a finger upon one of the finger platforms and apply pressure to the opposite ~~outside edge~~ outer edge of one of the outer ~~tine~~ tines opposite the finger platform to thereby applying concentrated pressure while rocking the improved universal fork by raising and lowering the terminating end of the handle grip such that the ~~outside edge~~ outer edge of the curved outer tine tines cuts a food item and whereby a user ~~may~~ can do so with either hand because of the symmetrical shape of the improved universal fork.

Claim 20 (Cancel)

Claim 21 (Cancel)